

caymaneco



Welcome to the 4th Edition of the Cayman Eco!

The Cayman Eco is a non-profit publication whose mission is to educate and motivate people of all ages to become more environmentally conscious. Please help save our beautiful islands!

Designed by:
Rachelle Rivers, Year 12, Student,
St. Ignatius Catholic School



*We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors,
we borrow it, from our children.*
– Native American Proverb

happy earth week 2009!

The theme for international Earth Day this year is **"The Green Generation"**. We have to accept the reality that **it is up to our generation** to preserve our planet NOW. **The good news:** the sooner we start changing, the **less drastic** those changes will need to be. We simply need to educate ourselves, become more conscious of our **personal lifestyle choices**, **lead by example**, and acknowledge that **our choices impact everything** on Earth not just now but possibly for many generations to come. Because Cayman is a small and beautiful community, our collective contributions to this cause will be **visible, immediate and tangible**.

– Tammy Kelderman, Founder & Researcher

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Schools Clean Up Cayman's Coastlines

Triple C students in South Sound (right) and Grade 6 students from **Cayman International School** at Starfish Point (far right) participate in beach clean-ups. (for full story, see p. 4)



It's So Easy Being Green!

5 Simple Things You Can Do NOW To Save the Planet



1. Conserve Energy – this is as simple as **unplugging** and **switching off** what you're not using. Energy doesn't come from a hole in the wall!



2. "Brown Bag" It 3 Times A Week – All that polystyrene flatware and cutlery from take-out restaurants does not just disappear when it goes in the trash. **Polystyrene is not biodegradable**, which means it will still be here for your **children's grandchildren**. Eat food you prepare at home in re-usable containers.



3. Walk the Walk – be honest with yourself about **what you're really doing to help preserve the environment**. Take it on quietly and steadfastly and don't make others feel guilty for not doing enough. **People will learn** more effectively by your example than your instruction.



4. Vote – Without public action, thoughtful individuals are swimming upstream. **Use your political choices** to support

sensible government regulation of industries that show corporate, social and environmental responsibility and penalize the ones who don't. **Write emails and letters**. Politicians know that for every 1 person who writes a letter, **100 more** feel the same way but just didn't bother to write.



5. Simplify Your Life – Get off the consumer treadmill and start appreciating what's really important in life. **Slow down and enjoy the simple blessings in life!** You only get one chance.

Check out this fun, life-changing mini-film that tells the true story of stuff:





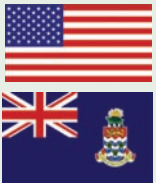
\$1,000 "Reward"!

Yes, you read that right! You can keep \$1,000 in your pocket a year if you leave your car in the driveway and walk or ride your bike to cover short distances.

Remember...

- starting a car is relatively **gas intensive**
- city driving, with all its starts-and-stops is very **fuel inefficient**
- no car means **no need to find a parking spot**
- idling (while waiting for that parking spot) gets you **ZERO miles to the gallon**
- **wear and tear** on the engine is highest when the engine is cold
- If walking or riding your bike is impractical, keep these things in mind:
 - **under-inflated tires** can decrease your fuel mileage by as much as 10%
 - the same goes for a **badly tuned engine**
 - try to start **work earlier/stay later** to avoid standing still in rush-hour traffic

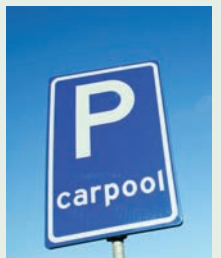
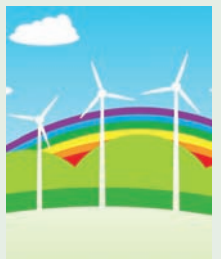
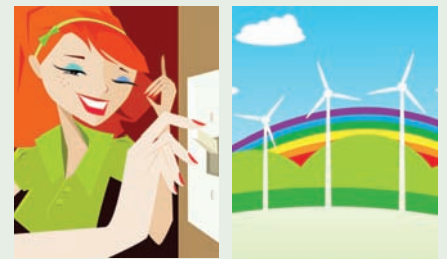
Doing all these **SMALL** things might not look like much, but over a year, they add up to lots of savings, both for you AND the environment!



Think Globally, Act Locally

The U.S. Plan for a Green Economic Future... Can We Use Some of Their Ideas Here In Cayman?

- ensuring 10% of **electricity** comes from **renewable sources** by 2012, and 25% by 2025 – now that CUC allows its customers to use alternative energies (like **solar**, **wind**, and **ocean**), and even sell it back to the grid, this is the wave of the future for **home builders** and **renovators** in Cayman.
- deploying the cheapest, cleanest, fastest energy source: **energy efficiency** – let's **turn off our lights**, hang our clothes to dry, **keep our A/C at moderate levels**, and turn off **electronics** we're not using (it's that simple!).
- **weatherizing** one million homes annually – in Cayman, we need to keep the heat out in order to lower our A/C bills – and we have the supplies and know-how at our local hardware stores.
- **creating jobs in green energy** – perhaps we should focus on building careers for Caymanians in the **eco-tourism** industry.
- **build more livable and sustainable communities** – perhaps our government needs to embrace **mass transportation** as a **long term solution** in Cayman, **plan healthy communities** (with sidewalks, **green space**, **bicycle** and **walking paths**, and **safe places for children to play**), and **protect our forests and wetlands** from overdevelopment.



"Global warming is not a someday problem, it is now. We are already breaking records with the intensity of our storms, the number of forest fires, the periods of drought...This is not the future I want for my daughters. It's not the future any of us want for our children. And if we act now and we act boldly, it doesn't have to be."

- Barack Obama, President of the United States of America

Public Enemy No. 1 PLASTIC



Pollution is now so prevalent on our Planet that is affecting us all, no matter where we live.

- Plastic bags were first introduced in 1977 and nowadays **4 out of every 5 bags** handed out at grocery stores are plastic.
- Each year, an estimated **500 billion to 1 trillion** single-use plastic bags are consumed worldwide.
- Currently, **97%** of these bags end up in either a **landfill** or **littering** our planet's fragile ecosystems. When plastic is disposed of improperly, it is **unsightly** and represents a **hazard to wildlife**.

Perhaps it takes 91% less energy to recycle a pound of plastic than it takes to recycle the same amount of paper but research from 2000 shows that **only 1% of plastic bags are being recycled**. The rest will take **between 20 and 1000 years** to break down in the environment.

We left the 20th century behind and the well developed technologies opened a brand new perspective on the way we could live in a greener earth. **Solar panels, hybrids, and biodegradable plastics** are carrying the message of the wide variety of choices the 21st century has to offer.

Reusable bags need only be **used 11 times** to have a lower environmental impact than using 11 disposable plastic bags.

"For a successful technology, reality must take precedence over public relations, for Nature cannot be fooled."

- Richard Feynman, American physicist and Nobel laureate



Cayman Eco Awards: Local Businesses Get the Green Turtle Seal of Approval!

Many local companies have started to reach out for the environment. Some of them have adopted the newest technologies that consume less energy and others are offering products that are eco-friendly while others are practicing good waste management - what is never produced does not have to be disposed.



- ✓ The internationally recognized **CayBrew** is the **beer company** that we all can be proud of because they are breaking new ground in the environmentally friendly business operation.

CayBrew recycles its glass bottles, spent grains, yeast and water and they have installed a state-of-the-art **waste water treatment system** throughout the brewery. (Prospect, Shamrock Road, 947-6699)



- ✓ The Caymanian owned and operated **Hew's Supplies** has a complete line of **disposables** made from **corn** and **sugarcane**. After the cane juice is extracted from the plant, the stalk is ground up and made into paper pulp. This pulp is then

made into a variety of sturdy products, including plates and bowls, **designed to compost in 45-60 days**. (North Sound Road, 949-0055)



- ✓ The "Diamond of the Sea" that is given by Mother Nature and bought to our dinner table (or into our bubble bath) by **Cayman Sea Salt** is the **purest** and **"greenest"** salt that you can find near and far. They are committed to the

environment and have a policy to be as **eco-friendly** as possible. Their crystallization tables are made of recycled glass from sliding glass doors discarded after Hurricane Ivan. (Craft market on the Waterfront in George Town, 943-7258)

Schools Clean Up Cayman's Coastlines

Local schools are finding creative ways to engage students in activities promoting good stewardship of the Islands' natural resources:



Cayman International School embeds **service learning** into each of its **class trips** with Grade 6 students recently participating in a **beach clean-up at Starfish Point**. The PTA is doing its part to reduce plastic bag use by **selling re-usable bags for \$5**. The average family of four uses **1000 plastic bags** each year of which **80%** come from the **grocery store**.

Triple C School organized a successful first **Trash-A-Thon** in March **cleaning up the beach in South Sound**.



Organized by the PTA, this event was part of a school campaign to bring awareness to students of **the importance of protecting our environment**.

Be a "greener" school:

- **establish** a Green Team charged with coordinating activities and making recommendations to school decision-makers,
- **adopt** an Environmental Vision Statement or Planet Pledge,
- **create** a Green School Action Plan including a school-wide environmental survey or audit with ongoing evaluation/ assessment,
- **integrate** "greening" into curricula using the classroom as a hands-on laboratory for problem-solving.



"Let's Keep Cayman Clean and Green"



More than **1000** words come to my mind when describing all that can be seen while travelling around the Cayman Islands: **Silver Thatch Trees, Banana Orchids, Blue Iguanas, White Sand Beaches, Clear Blue Caribbean Sea...** and the list goes on and on. Suddenly these idyllic scenes are

quickly erased as a **SINGLE** word highlights the daunting task which the Cayman Islands Beautification Committee has been tackling on a daily basis since 2005 - **LITTER!** Believe it or not, this is not only found at 'Mt. Trashmore' but also tucked away on side streets and on vacant lots and in dyke roads and in the **MANGROVES** and...you name it and it could be there! Such a terrible shame – and **only humans** are responsible for these thoughtless acts.

Similarly, **only humans** can stop this senseless trashing of our environment so let us each make a **greater effort to reduce, re-use and recycle** all that we can and if neither of these **3 Rs** can be done, then **please dispose of your LITTER properly!**
- Alice Mae Coe

If one picture is worth a 1000 words, then our mission can be told by these four!



For further information or to be a volunteer you may contact either Heather Bodden (Chairman) at 916-3574 / email habdevelp@candw.ky or Alice Mae Coe (Deputy Chairman) at 925-2484 / email amcoe345@gmail.com Working together... **"Let's Keep Cayman Clean and Green!"**

National Trust Calendar of Events

April 2009

Guided Mastic Trail Hikes

Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays 8:30am.
CI\$15 donation for Trust members, \$20 for non-members.

Week of April 14th

Book Readings for Children, Books & Books

Call 640-2665 for more information.

Sunday April 19th

Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park

FREE admission to residents in celebration of Earth Day (must show a valid Cayman Islands drivers license.) Recycle Your Plastic Plant Pots by donating them to the Botanic Park!

April 17th-24th

Lobster Pot Dive Center "Week for the Trust"

Mangrove boat tour and tank rental proceeds go to National Trust.
Contact 946-8685 for more information.

Friday, April 24th

Environmental Movie Night, 4pm-6pm, National Trust Visitor's Centre, Dart Park, CI\$5 for Trust members and CI\$6 for non-members.

Saturday, April 25th

Reef Watch

Contact CITA (919-8522) or your favourite dive company for more information.

Cayman Kayaks Fundraising Tours – "Day for the Trust"

Contact 926-4467 for more information.

"Green Generation" Fair

The Chamber of Commerce showcases 'green' products and services, 10:30am-1pm, Public Beach, West Bay Road.

13th Annual Earth Day Roadside Clean-up

7am-11am Register your team online at www.caymanchamber.ky

Underwater Cleanup & Beach/Iron Shore Cleanup

DiveTech, Cobalt Coast Resort, West Bay, 1pm-5pm.

Sunday, April 26th 2009

PWC Earth Day 5K Fun-Run/Walk

7:30am, CI\$15.

You can also contact the National Trust at info@nationaltrust.org.ky or 949-0121 for more info on the above events.

CONTRIBUTORS

Tammy Kelderman, Managing Editor & Researcher

Alice Mae Coe, Editor & Researcher

Michelle Stanley, Copy Editor

Peter Berende, Researcher

Renata Kecskes, Researcher

Kate Lanham, Researcher

mc2, Design

Caroline Doherty, "Eco" the Turtle logo

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FEEDBACK AND SUGGESTION BOX

Comments? Questions?

Ideas on how we can improve this newsletter?

Rather get our newsletter online?

Email: caymaneco@yahoo.com

and let us know how we can help.

Dedication

This edition of CaymanEco is dedicated to the memory of James Frank Banks (1956-2009), fellow surfer, friend, and champion of alternative energy in the Cayman Islands.



Printed on recycled paper using vegetable-based ink